

Questioning Stems to Prompt Skillful Thinking

Pause

Paraphrase

Probe

Clarify

- "What are some of your goals?"
- "What ideas do you have?"
- "What outcomes do you seek?"
- "What alternatives are you considering?"
- "What conclusions might you draw?"
- "What may indicate ...?"
- "What hunches do you have to explain this situation?"
- "As you think about..."
- "As you consider ..."
- "As you reflect on ..."
- "What are some of the benefits you will derive from engaging in this activity?"
- "As you anticipate your project, what are some indicators that you are progressing and succeeding?"
- "What are some of the goals you have in mind for ...?"
- "As you consider your alternatives, what seems most promising?"
- "How will you know that is successful?"
- "What personal learnings or insights will you carry forward to future situations?"
- "What are some of ...?"
- "What led to ...?"
- "What possible ...?"
- "How/what might?"
- "How should ...?"
- "As you reflect on the processes you used ...?"
- "While you were reading, what was going on inside your head to monitor your comprehension of the story?"
- "If you were, how do you think he would react to?"
- "What are some other ways you could solve this problem?"
- "What questions might you ask to gather the data you need to solve this problem?"
- "What intrigues you about ...?"
- "As you listen to others' points of view, what metacognitive strategies did you employ to see the situation from their perspective?"
- "As you talk to yourself about this problem, what new insights were generated?"
- "What ways might you ...?"
- "What alternatives might you ...?"
- "What different kinds of ways might you ...?"
- "What new ways might you?"

- "What are some novel possibilities ...?"
- "What might it be like if ...?"
- "What is suggested by ...?"
- "In what ways are ... and ... similar and different, and what does this show about them?"
- "What kinds of ... are these?"
- "What are the parts of ... and what do these parts do?"
- "Which of these is more important (better) and which are less? Why?"
- "What order do these go in? Why?"
- "What does ... think about ...?" "What support does ... offer to convince us of these ideas?"
- "Should we accept what ... says about ...? Why?"
- "Why did ... happen? Why do you think that?"
- "What do you think will happen to ... next? Why do you think that?"
- "What do you think all ... Have in common? Why?"
- "What is this ... like?"
- "What can you conclude about this ... because it is like ...? Why?"
- "When you know that if ... then ..., what can you conclude if you find out ...?"
- "What should ... do when ...?" "What will result?" "Why should ... do this rather than ...?"
- "What is the problem about ...?" "What is the best way to solve it?" "Why is this best?"
- "How do you know you are right?"
- "What other ways can you prove that you are correct?"
- "Explain what you mean when you say you 'just figured it out'."
- "When you said you started at the beginning, how did you know where to begin?"
- "Let me repeat the question."
- "So, your answer is 48. Who came up with a different answer?"
- "That's one possibility. Who solved it another way?"
- "Tell us what strategies you used to solve the problem."
- "What steps did you take in your solution?"
- "What was going on inside your head as you solved the problem?"